

REMARKS

A telephone discussion between Examiner Colan and Dennis Smid (one of the applicant's undersigned attorneys) was held on February 1, 2007. The applicant and Mr. Smid wish to thank the Examiner for her time and consideration for such discussion.

Claims 9-11 have been canceled. Claims 2 and 8, and amended claims 1, 3-7, and 12-17 are in this application.

Claims 1-8 and 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Steiner et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. App. No. 2003/0065774 A1).

Amended independent claim 1 recites in part the following:

"in which for a respective object, the input information is a first object connected to the respective object which occurs immediately before the respective object, the output information is a second object connected to the respective object which occurs immediately after the respective object, the input auxiliary information is a third object connected to the respective object which occurs before the respective object and which is different from the first object, and the output auxiliary information is a fourth object connected to the respective object which occurs after the respective object and which is different from the second object,

in which each of the objects represents a respective activity content for a business such that content activities for all of the objects pertain to the same business." (Emphasis added.)

It is respectfully submitted that Steiner as applied by the Examiner does not appear to disclose the above-identified features of claim 1. For example, and as discussed during the February 1 discussion, in explaining the above 102 rejection of claim 1, the Examiner appears to assert that element 311 of Fig. 3 of Steiner is the same as input information or first object of claim 1, and that element 304 of Fig. 3 of Steiner is the same as output information or second object of claim 1. (See Page 4 of the present Office Action.) As discussed during the February 1 discussion, the Examiner asserts that a requested item in Steiner is the same as the "respective object" of claim 1.

As specifically recited in claim 1, for a respective object, "the input information is a first object connected to the respective object which occurs immediately before the respective object, the output information is a second object connected to the respective object which occurs immediately after the respective object." Also, in claim 1, each object "represents a respective activity content for a business." An example of such arrangement will now be described with reference to Fig. 4 of the present application.

In Fig. 4 consider "noodle boiling" as the respective object, "order" as the first object (input information), and "topping setout" as the second object (output information). Using such example with claim 1 presents the following: the first object (or activity content---"order") occurs immediately before the respective object (or activity content---"noodle boiling") and the second object (or activity content---"topping setout") occurs immediately after the respective object ("noodle boiling"). On the other hand, in Fig. 3 of Steiner, elements 311 and 304 do not appear to occur immediately before and after the same requested item.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the above 102 rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

For at least some of the reasons previously described with regard to claim 1, it is also respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 3-7 and 12-17 are also distinguishable from the Steiner as applied by the Examiner and, as such, it is also respectfully requested that the above 102 rejection of claims 3-7 and 12-17 be withdrawn.

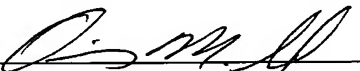
Claims 2 and 8 are dependent from one of independent claims 1 and 7. Accordingly, it is also respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2 and 8 are distinguishable from Steiner as applied by the Examiner for at least the reasons previously described. Accordingly, it is also respectfully requested that the above 102 rejection of claims 2 and 8 be withdrawn.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections and/or rejections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: February 1, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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